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International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report describes the mechanism established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to implement the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and reviews the latest developments in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as well as of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It indicates how the mechanism is creating synergy between the efforts made by the Committee, the Office and other entities of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental entities towards the goal of using the benefits of space science and technology and their applications to promote sustainable development.

* The present report was prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs following the adoption of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its work at the forty-fifth session, in order to reflect in particular the latest developments in the work of the Committee and the action teams.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1	3
II.	Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies	2-14	3
	A. Revised structure of the agendas of the Committee's subcommittees	3-4	3
	B. Action teams to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III	5-7	3
	C. Promotion of the participation of youth in space activities	8-10	4
	D. Strengthening partnerships with non-governmental entities	11-12	4
	E. Preparations for the review of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in 2004	13-14	4
III.	Implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs	15-33	5
	A. Strengthening the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	16	5
	B. Initiating a capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law	17-18	5
	C. Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications	19-28	5
	D. Establishing and strengthening the partnerships with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industry	29	7
	E. Strengthening a public outreach programme, in particular for young people	30-32	7
	F. Strengthening publication and information services	33	8
IV.	Further enhancement of inter-agency coordination and cooperation	34-39	8
	A. Action taken by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities	35-38	8
	B. Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to strengthen inter-agency cooperation	39	9
V.	Conclusion	40-43	9
Annexes			
Annex I.	Summary of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space		11
Annex II.	Participation of Member States and organizations in action teams		15

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, took note with satisfaction of the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III),[1] which was convened in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999, and endorsed the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development".[2] In its resolution 56/51 of 10 December 2001, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

II. Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies

2. In implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space takes two complementary approaches. One is for the Committee and its subcommittees to consider selected elements of the strategy contained in the Vienna Declaration as agenda items of those bodies. The other is for the action teams established by the Committee at its forty-fourth session to conduct work throughout the year. The action teams report on their work to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at their annual sessions for review and approval during their consideration of the agenda item on "Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".

A. Revised structure of the agendas of the Committee's subcommittees

3. In 1999, the Committee revised the structure of the agendas of its subcommittees, enabling the subcommittees to introduce new agenda items either under multi-year work plans with clear objectives to be achieved within a fixed time period or as single issues/items for discussion to be considered for one session only. A list of agenda items that have relevance to the recommendations of UNISPACE III is contained in annex I to the present report.

4. Some of the items on the agendas of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have direct relevance to the work of the action teams. Recommendations made by the Committee and the Subcommittee under those agenda items provide policy guidelines to the respective action teams.

B. Action teams to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III

5. At its forty-fourth session, the Committee established 11 action teams to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III which had been accorded highest priority by Member States or for which there had been an offer by Member States to lead associated activities. The Committee had identified those recommendations based on the results of a survey conducted among Member States. As requested by the Committee, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had also conducted a survey among the entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with observer status with the Committee to identify the recommendations for which they wished to be members of the action teams. The list of the action teams and participating Member States and organizations is contained in annex II to the present report. The Office also compiled a list of contacts in those States and organizations participating in the action teams and made it available on its web site (http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/unisp-3/followup-teams_contact_list.html).

6. In 2002, all action teams reported to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the objectives, work plans and final products to be delivered, and to the Committee on further developments in their work. The Committee expressed its appreciation to all chairs of the action teams and agreed that Member States should provide full support to the action teams in conducting their work. Following the agreement of the Committee in 2001 that the action teams should actively consider non-governmental entities that could be invited to participate in their work, some action teams had involved many non-governmental entities in their work.

7. As at 1 July 2002, 50 Member States had joined one or more action teams as members. In addition, 12 entities of the United Nations system, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and 23 intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities, including 9 organizations that have permanent observer status with the Committee, participated in the action teams.

C. Promotion of the participation of youth in space activities

8. The Vienna Declaration called for action to provide children and youth with opportunities to learn more about space science and technology and their importance to human development and to participate fully in activities related to space science and technology. The Vienna Declaration also called for action to create, within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, a consultative mechanism to facilitate the continued participation of young people from all over the world in space-related activities.

9. Regarding the opportunities for children and youth, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered the agenda item entitled "Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering" at its thirty-eighth session. During its consideration of the new agenda item entitled "Space and society" at its forty-fifth session, the Committee noted that outer space was a theme that could attract children to science and mathematics and could increase the number of professionals entering those fields. The Committee stressed the importance of education in space science and engineering, through both government and private activities.

10. Regarding the above-mentioned consultative mechanism, the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/51, decided to grant permanent observer status with the Committee to the Space Generation Advisory Council, which originated from the Space Generation Forum, which was organized by and for young professionals and university students during UNISPACE III. The Office for Outer Space Affairs supported the activities of the Space Generation Advisory Council by holding a series of symposiums on enhancing the participation of youth in space activities (see para. 30, below).

D. Strengthening partnerships with non-governmental entities

11. UNISPACE III recognized the importance of involving civil society, including industry, in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit and in the interest of all States. Following a recommendation by UNISPACE III, the Subcommittee held symposiums to strengthen its partnership with industry, and with the participation of speakers from industry, at its sessions in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The theme of the 2002 symposium was "Expanding operational applications of very high resolution remote sensing: potential and challenges in civilian applications".

12. An increasing number of non-governmental entities have been participating in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as observers. At present, 16 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have permanent observer status with the Committee. Following UNISPACE III, three non-governmental organizations, the European Association for the International Space Year, the National Space Society and the Space Generation Advisory Council were granted permanent observer status with the Committee. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee recommended that two more non-governmental entities, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the Spaceweek International Association (SIA), should be granted observer status.

E. Preparations for the review of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in 2004

13. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/51, the Committee established a Working Group to prepare a report to be submitted to the General Assembly, in order for the Assembly to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives. The Committee requested the Working Group to make recommendations on the format, scope and organizational aspects of the above-mentioned review by the Assembly.

14. The Working Group recommended that, in order for the Assembly to review the progress, a separate item entitled "Review of the implementation of the

recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" should be included in the agenda of the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, for consideration in plenary. The Working Group also made recommendations on actions needed, sources of information, a draft outline and a timetable for preparing the report. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group as contained in its report.[3]

III. Implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs

15. In 2000, the Committee endorsed the plan of action proposed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III.[4] In its resolution 55/122, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the plan with necessary resources beginning in 2002. Within its programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, the Office has begun to carry out activities towards the full implementation of the plan of action with necessary resources.

A. Strengthening the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

16. The plan of action included a biannual global survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities and an analytical study to identify areas of space-related activities where new and innovative mechanisms for cooperation were required. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has begun to undertake those actions by assisting and contributing to the work of the action teams. In implementing their respective recommendations, the action teams assess the existing opportunities and plans for international cooperation and aim to suggest actions that need to be undertaken, particularly through international cooperation.

B. Initiating a capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law

17. A capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law is a new, major area of the activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It is also in line with a strategy to be pursued under the medium-term plan for the period from 2002 to 2005 to assist developing countries in the development of national space legislation and ratification of existing outer space treaties. The Office has made available on its home page a searchable index that provides information on the status of signatures and ratification of the five international treaties governing outer space activities (http://registry.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/treaty_status/index.stm.). The database can be searched by treaty, State or status. The Office also continues to develop, maintain and improve the database on national space laws.

18. The Office will organize the first workshop on capacity-building in space law (The Hague, 18-21 November 2002) in cooperation with the International Institute of Air and Space Law of the University of Leiden and the Government of the Netherlands. The Office is currently engaged in discussions with interested Member States to host space law workshops in the coming years.

C. Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

19. Following UNISPACE III, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/68, called for strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and listed a number of activities to be included in the Programme. In response to that call, the Office for Outer Space Affairs reoriented the Programme and added new activities. The Programme now concentrates on a few themes of major importance for developing countries and aims to establish objectives that can be achieved in the short and medium term. The priority themes of the Programme are: (a) disaster management; (b) satellite communications for tele-education and telemedicine applications; (c) monitoring and protection of the environment, including the prevention of infectious diseases;

(d) management of natural resources; and (e) education and capacity-building, including research areas in basic space science. Within each priority theme, the Programme will pursue the following main objectives: (a) capacity-building; and (b) building awareness among decision makers in order to strengthen local support for the operational use of space technologies.

1. Organization of workshops, seminars, symposiums and training courses

20. The plan of action includes the organization of workshops and conferences on advanced space applications and new system developments for programme managers and leaders of space technology development and applications activities in developing countries. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work at its forty-fifth session includes the list of workshops, training courses and symposiums carried out or planned by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2002 and 2003: 13 activities have been carried out or planned in 2002, and 10 activities are currently being planned for 2003.[5]

2. Support to the regional centres for space science and technology education

21. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continues to support the regional centres for space science and technology education and the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, which were established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 45/72 of 11 December 1990 and 50/27 of 6 December 1995.

22. The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education—in English Language completed its second nine-month course on remote sensing and satellite meteorology in June 2002. The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology—in French Language has begun two nine-month courses, one on remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) and the other on satellite meteorology. By the end of July 2002, the Centre will have completed four nine-month courses.

23. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, inaugurated in India in November 1995, has conducted 13 nine-month, postgraduate courses and 10 short-term courses, covering such subjects as remote sensing and GIS, satellite communications, satellite meteorology and global climate and space science. A total of 340 scholars from 39 countries have benefited from the educational activities of the Centre.

24. With regard to the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, preparations are under way to commence the first nine-month course on remote sensing and GIS in 2003. As for the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, its Steering Committee agreed to establish multilateral scientific cooperation among the core institutions of the Network.

25. In support of the operation of the regional centres, the Office for Outer Space Affairs convened, in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA), the United Nations Expert Meeting on the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education (Frascati, Italy, 3-7 September 2001). The purpose of the Expert Meeting was to review the status of the establishment and operation of the regional centres and to review and update curricula at the university level and across cultures in remote sensing, satellite meteorology, satellite communications and space science. The findings and recommendations of the Expert Meeting have been submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.[6]

3. Technical advisory services

26. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications has increased its efforts to undertake follow-up actions, wherever feasible, based on the recommendations of the workshops that it has organized. The areas in which the Programme currently provides technical advisory services include the following:

(a) Collaborating with ESA on follow-up activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia relating to the series of workshops on basic space science, including the distribution of regional newsletters on a regular basis;

(b) Providing assistance to the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communication Council to support its growth and operation as well as its preparations for the

Council's conference and exhibition, to be held in 2003;

(c) Providing assistance to the Disaster Management Support Group of CEOS and supporting the work of the CEOS ad hoc Working Group on Education as its co-chair;

(d) Collaborating with ESA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in providing technical assistance to undertake follow-up actions on several training courses held in the 1990s on applications of data from remote sensing satellites, including the following: (i) concluding a project on the use of Earth observation data for monitoring glaciers and snow cover in Latin America; (ii) concluding a project for watershed management in Asia and the Pacific; and (iii) initiating a project in Africa, in 2002, on the use of satellite data in locating and planning the management of humid areas;

(e) Providing technical advice to the Government of Colombia in its follow-up, as pro tempore secretariat, of the recommendations of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 14-17 May 2002).

4. Long-term fellowships

27. To promote the development of indigenous capability, five long-term fellowships will be awarded for the in-depth training of individuals from developing countries for the period 2002-2003. ESA has offered one fellowship each in satellite communications systems, space antennas and electromagnetics, and remote sensing instrumentation tenable at its European Space Technology Centre in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, and two fellowships for research in remote sensing technology tenable at its European Space Research Institute in Frascati, Italy.

28. The long-term fellowship programme has been reoriented to strengthen its effectiveness and to enhance the results of other training activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. For the period 2001-2002, the two fellowships offered by ESA allowed university educators who had participated in the series of United Nations/Sweden international training courses to improve their skills and to demonstrate the practical usefulness of remote sensing through appropriate projects in their universities.

D. Establishing and strengthening the partnerships with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industry

29. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has increased its efforts to encourage space-related non-governmental organizations and industry to contribute to the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Office organizes the industry symposium held during the annual session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and assists action teams in involving appropriate non-governmental entities. To bring to the attention of leaders of the space industry the importance of the work of the Committee, the Office has participated in meetings of the space business community and will organize activities during the World Space Congress (Houston, Texas, United States of America, 10-19 October 2002), which is expected to attract more than 10,000 people, including business leaders in space-related fields.

E. Strengthening a public outreach programme, in particular for young people

30. The Office for Outer Space Affairs continues its efforts to increase opportunities for young people to learn about space science and technology and their benefits for society. In cooperation with Austria and ESA, the Office will organize the third symposium on enhancing the participation of youth in space activities (Graz, Austria, 9-12 September 2002). The Office also supports initiatives taken by young people to promote space activities, such as the one called "Under African Skies", an initiative by a group of young professionals to bring space science to schoolchildren in African countries.

31. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly declared 4 to 10 October World Space Week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. As part of its public outreach programme, the Office plans to organize a United Nations event each year in its efforts to raise the visibility of World Space Week and to act as a catalyst for additional events to be held around the

world. This year, the Office will organize a special event in cooperation with the German Aerospace Center in Bonn. The Office also continues to work closely with such non-governmental organizations as the Spaceweek International Association.

32. To increase public awareness of the benefits of space science and technology, the Office continues to improve the space exhibit at the Vienna International Centre. The exhibit features models of spacecraft and rockets as well as interactive computer programs, among other things, and continues to attract the attention of visitors, in particular schoolchildren. Recent additions to the exhibit include a replica of a biosphere experiment designed for schoolchildren and flown onboard the International Space Station as well as a Moon rock. On the occasion of International Women's Day in March 2002, the Office presented a series of posters on "Women in Space". Similar posters are being planned on various themes.

F. Strengthening publication and information services

33. To improve the International Space Information Service, the Office uses its home page as an effective and efficient means of disseminating information on the latest developments of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as well as the activities of the Office. It is also linked to other web sites on aerospace and other relevant information, for example, the International Aerospace Information Network. The on-line index of objects launched into outer space enables all users to have quick access to the information furnished in accordance with the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex).

IV. Further enhancement of inter-agency coordination and cooperation

34. The Vienna Declaration called for actions to encourage the increased use of space-related systems and services by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and to strengthen the coordination of mutually beneficial activities between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other United Nations entities.

A. Action taken by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

35. The space-related activities of the organizations within the United Nations system are coordinated at the annual session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. Several United Nations entities and specialized agencies have extensive space-related programmes. Details of those programmes can be found in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. The latest report (A/AC.105/780) contains an overview of the programme of work for 2002, 2003 and future years. Following the agreement reached at the Inter-Agency Meeting in 2000, the structure of the report has been revised to closely follow the structure of the Vienna Declaration, allowing the reader to identify easily which United Nations entities contribute to implementing specific actions recommended in the Vienna Declaration.

36. At its twenty-second session (Rome, 23-25 January 2002), the Inter-Agency Meeting continued to consider the item entitled "Methods to strengthen further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities". The work of the Inter-Agency Meeting under the item contributes to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in its consideration of a similar item (see para. 39). Upon invitation by the Subcommittee, the Inter-Agency Meeting considered barriers to greater use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and possible means and mechanisms to eliminate those barriers. The Inter-Agency Meeting noted that, as there were different constituencies in the governing bodies of each organization of the United Nations system, a delegation to one forum of the system was not necessarily fully aware, in a timely manner, of the directions pursued by a delegation of the same country in a different forum. The Meeting therefore felt that closer coordination and timely information-sharing among government agencies represented at different forums on issues relating to space activities would be beneficial.

37. The Inter-Agency Meeting continues to increase the awareness of policy makers of the usefulness of space applications in promoting social and economic development. In that regard, the Inter-Agency Meeting stressed that further efforts should be made by all organizations to ensure that space-related activities would be incorporated as cross-cutting issues in each of their preparatory activities for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As contributions to the World Summit, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa jointly organized the Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management (Addis Ababa, 1-5 July 2002) to increase awareness of policy makers in Africa of the usefulness of space technology in disaster management. Immediately prior to the World Summit, the Office will also organize a Symposium entitled "Space Technology Provides Solutions for Sustainable Development" (Stellenbosch, South Africa, 21-23 August 2002). Together with entities of the United Nations system, the Office will circulate in time for the World Summit a brochure for the general public that summarizes how space tools are being used by various entities of the United Nations system to promote sustainable development.

38. The Inter-Agency Meeting noted that a letter sent by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General to bring to his attention the need to consider the contributions of space science and technology in achieving the objectives of major United Nations conferences had been issued as a document of the General Assembly (A/56/306). The Assembly had subsequently invited organizations of the United Nations system to identify recommendations of major United Nations conferences that could be implemented with the use of space science and technology. In response to that call, the Inter-Agency Meeting agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with the assistance of organizations of the United Nations system, should analyse the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to identify recommendations that could be better implemented with the use of space science and technology, as, in the view of the Inter-Agency Meeting, most of the issues addressed in the United Nations conferences held in recent years would be considered at the World Summit.

B. Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to strengthen inter-agency cooperation

39. At its thirty-ninth session, during the consideration of the agenda item entitled "Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system" in accordance with its three-year work plan, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee benefited from inputs provided by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities in identifying the barriers to the greater use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and examining means and mechanisms to eliminate those barriers. The Subcommittee also took an initiative to support and complement the efforts made by the Inter-Agency Meeting to increase the awareness of policy makers of the usefulness of space applications in promoting social and economic development on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Subcommittee recommended that a statement from the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space be delivered at the World Summit to highlight how space applications could contribute to promoting sustainable development. The text of the statement to be presented at the World Summit on behalf of the Committee is contained in its report.[7]

V. Conclusion

40. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has established a solid and flexible mechanism to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III. Through the consideration of agenda items that have relevance to the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies provide overall policy guidelines for implementing the recommendations and play a leading role in carrying out the strategy outlined in the Vienna Declaration. The annual sessions of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee also allow for periodic monitoring and review of the progress made. The role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is strengthened by the action teams that conduct their work throughout the year. The action teams help

increase the sense of responsibility among the Member States that lead the teams and the sense of ownership among all countries and organizations that participate. By encouraging the participation of non-governmental entities, the action teams provide an avenue for civil society to make important contributions to the implementation of the recommendations together with Governments. The action teams provide a unique mechanism to strengthen cooperation not only between industrialized and developing countries but also between policy makers and scientific and technical experts, as well as between the space industry and user communities. The implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs supports and complements the work of various action teams.

41. In strengthening and repositioning space activities in the United Nations system, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities work together towards the same goal, to bring the benefits of space technology and its applications to the attention of the heads of organizations of the United Nations system.

42. There has been increasing synergy among the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities towards the goals identified by UNISPACE III. Achieving the goals of UNISPACE III would also make important contributions to achieving some of the goals identified in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] such as the eradication of poverty and protection of environment through better management of land, forest, ocean and water resources using satellite-derived information, as well as protection of the vulnerable through effective and efficient mitigation of adverse effects of disasters and coordination of emergency responses and humanitarian assistance using satellite images and data and satellite communications.

43. The review and appraisal by the General Assembly in 2004 of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III will provide an opportunity to increase the political visibility of and momentum for the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies. Their efforts, if supported by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and as many non-governmental entities as possible, will have led to turning the possibilities envisaged in the Vienna Declaration into reality and to global recognition of the usefulness of space tools to enhance human development and security. If proven to be successful in 2004, the mechanism used and the strategy followed by the Committee in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III could be considered as a model for the follow-up to other conferences held within the United Nations system.

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3.
[2] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1.
[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/57/20), annex I.
[4] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/57/20), para. 71.
[5] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), paras. 54 and 56.
[6] A/AC.105/782 and A/AC.105/L.238, 239, 240 and 241.
[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/57/20), annex III.
[8] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

Annex I

Summary of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Recommendation[a]		*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
1	Develop a comprehensive, worldwide environmental monitoring strategy	Yes		Activities relating to monitoring and protection of the environment, a priority theme of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (hereinafter "the Programme")
2	Improve the management of Earth's natural resources	Yes		Activities relating to management of natural resources, a priority theme of the Programme
3	Develop and implement the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS)			The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC), at its 2002 session, noted the activities already being conducted by the IGOS Partnership (IGOS-P) that had direct relevance to the recommendation and agreed that there was no need to establish an action team; the Subcommittee invited IGOS-P to make a presentation on its activities at the 2003 session of the Subcommittee
4	Enhance weather and climate forecasting	Yes		
5	Minimize harmful effects of space activities on the local and global environment			
6	Improve public health services	Yes	Use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health to be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) at its 2003 session	Activities relating to telemedicine, a priority theme of the Programme
7	Implement an integrated, global system to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts	Yes	Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system considered by STSC under the work plan covering the period 2001-2003	Activities relating to disaster management, a priority theme of the Programme, which launched a training module consisting of regional workshops on the subject
8	Promote literacy and enhance rural education through tele-education			Activities relating to tele-education, one of the priority themes of the Programme
9	Improve knowledge-sharing through the promotion of universal access to space-based communication services			

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
10	Improve universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems	Yes		The Programme has launched a training module consisting of regional workshops on the use and applications of global navigation satellite systems
11	Promote sustainable development by applying results of space research	Yes		One of the main goals of the Inter-Agency Meeting and the Programme
12	Improve scientific knowledge of near and outer space through cooperative activities			The series of UN/ESA Workshops on Basic Space Science
13	Improve the protection of the near-Earth space and outer space environments through mitigation of space debris		Space debris considered by STSC since before UNISPACE III and in accordance with the work plan covering the period 2002-2005	
14	Improve the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects	Yes		
15	Protect the near-Earth space and outer space environments through further research on the use of nuclear power sources		Use of nuclear power sources in outer space considered by STSC since before UNISPACE III, also through the Working Group under the item, and in accordance with the work plan covering the period 2000-2003	
16	Minimize interference with bands in the electromagnetic spectrum			Information was provided by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) at 2001 and 2002 sessions of STSC on their activities concerning the narrower subject of frequency interference with radio astronomy
17	Enhance capacity-building by developing human and budgetary resources	Yes	Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications considered by STSC at its 2002 and 2003 sessions	One of the main objectives of the Programme in carrying out its activities under each priority theme
18	Increase awareness among decision makers and the general public of the importance of space activities	Yes		One of the main objectives of the Programme in carrying out activities under each priority theme
19	Establish/strengthen national mechanisms for the coordination of space activities			
20	Improve the sharing of information on and use of spin-offs from space activities		Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status considered by the Committee since before UNISPACE III	

Recommendation[a]		*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
21	Provide education opportunities for youth to learn more about space science and technology and participate in space activities		Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering considered by STSC at its 2001 session; space and society considered by the Committee at its 2002 and 2003 sessions	
22	Create within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a consultative mechanism to facilitate the participation of youth in cooperative space-related activities			The Space Generation Advisory Council was granted permanent observer status with the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/51; the Programme has held a series of symposiums on enhancing the participation of youth in space activities, supporting the work of the Space Generation Advisory Council
23	Create awards to recognize outstanding contributions in space activity			
24	Reaffirm the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees and its secretariat in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space			
25	Ensure sustainable funding mechanisms for regional centres affiliated to the United Nations and enhance support for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications			Fund-raising activities by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to support activities of the Programme
26	Encourage the increased use of space-related systems and services by the organizations of the United Nations system and by the private sector		Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system considered by STSC under the work plan covering the period 2001-2003; in previous years, the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities reported to STSC under this item	
27	Invite States to ratify or accede to, and invite intergovernmental organizations to declare acceptance of, the outer space treaties		Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its annual sessions	

Recommendation[a]		Action team[b] established	Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies	Other activities
28	Further consider the agenda structure and working methods of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees		Agenda items of both of the subcommittees of the Committee, considered under other matters by the Committee	
29	Strengthen the coordination of mutually beneficial activities between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other United Nations entities		Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system considered by STSC under the work plan covering the period 2001-2003, in previous years, the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities reported to STSC under this item	
30	Call upon the international community to consider the recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III			
31	Establish a special voluntary United Nations fund for the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations			Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/68, the terms of reference of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications have been revised to include the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III
32	Identify new and innovative sources of financing to support the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations	Yes	Related to mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications, considered by STSC at its 2002 and 2003 sessions	The UN/IAF Workshops held since 2001 include a session to address this subject
33	Promote further the peaceful uses of outer space through cooperation between "space-faring" and "non-space faring" as well as among developing countries, and involvement of civil society, including industry			

[a] The recommendations have been numbered in accordance with their order of appearance in the Vienna Declaration.

[b] For more information on the action teams, see annex II.

Annex II

Participation of Member States and organizations in action teams

	Action team[a]	Chair(s)	Countries that are members of the action team (as of 1 July 2002)		Entities of the United Nations system and organizations that are participating in the action team (as of 1 July 2002)	
			Number	Countries	Number	Entities and organizations
1	Environmental Monitoring Strategy	Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Syrian Arab Republic	24	Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, China, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States	9	Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*, European Space Agency (ESA), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Manila Observatory
2	Management of Earth's Natural Resources	India	27	Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States	6	ECE, ESCAP, UNESCO*, SGAC, Manila Observatory, Philippine Astronomical Society (PAS)
4	Weather and Climate Forecasting	Portugal	25	Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United States	5	ESCAP, UNESCO*, World Meteorological Organization, Manila Observatory, PAS

	Action team[a]	Chair(s)	Countries that are members of the action team (as of 1 July 2002)		Entities of the United Nations system and organizations that are participating in the action team (as of 1 July 2002)	
			Number	Countries	Number	Entities and organizations
6	Public Health	Canada	23	Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United States	5	ESCAP, World Health Organization (WHO)**, SGAC, Manila Observatory, PAS
7	Disaster Management	Canada, China, France	39	Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	11	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ESCAP, UNESCO, WHO**, ESA, European Association for the International Space Year (EURISY), SGAC, Manila Observatory, PAS
10	Global Navigation Satellite Systems	Italy, United States	31	Australia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United States	12	ESCAP, International Telecommunication Union, ESA, European Commission, European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, Civil GPS Service Interface Committee, EURISY, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, International Association of Institutes of Navigation, International Bureau of Weights and Measures, International Federation of Surveyors, International GPS Service

	Action team[a]	Chair(s)	Countries that are members of the action team (as of 1 July 2002)		Entities of the United Nations system and organizations that are participating in the action team (as of 1 July 2002)	
			Number	Countries	Number	Entities and organizations
11	Sustainable Development	Nigeria	26	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	8	ESCAP, UNESCO*, ISPRS, EURISY, National Space Society (NSS), SGAC, Manila Observatory, PAS
14	Near-Earth Objects	United Kingdom	17	Australia, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States	7	ESA, Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), International Astronomical Union (IAU), NSS, SGAC, The Spaceguard Foundation, European Space Science Committee of the European Science Foundation
17	Capacity-Building	Japan	22	Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, France, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United States	6	ESCAP, UNESCO, ESA, COSPAR, IAU, Manila Observatory
18	Awareness Increase	Austria, United States	21	Australia, Austria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arabic Republic, United States	14	ESCAP, UNESCO*, ESA, COSPAR, International Law Association, ISPRS, International Space University, EURISY, NSS, SGAC, Spaceweek International Association, Austrian Space Agency, Manila Observatory, PAS
32	Innovative Sources of Financing	France	14	Algeria, Australia, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic	6	ESCAP, ESA, NSS, SGAC, Manila Observatory, PAS

[a] The number of the Action Team corresponds to the number assigned to the respective recommendation of UNISPACE III, as indicated in annex I.

* To be communicated through the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

** Only to receive information.